# CALIFORNIA EQUITABLE RECOVERY INITIATIVE

## REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
## OCTOBER 2022



**THE CENTER**
*at Sierra Health Foundation*

# READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS AND CRITERIA CAREFULLY

## BACKGROUND

Sierra Health Foundation: Center for Health Program Management (The Center) was founded by Sierra Health Foundation in 2012 as an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. With offices in Sacramento and Fresno, The Center pursues the promise of health and racial equity in communities across California. Leveraging leadership, operational and funding support from Sierra Health Foundation and its partners, The Center establishes investment partnerships with public and private funders; community members; community organizations; national, state and local government agencies; nonprofits; and businesses to advance health equity.

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Through a partnership with the Sierra Health Foundation, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Office of Health Equity (OHE) will award $2.6 million in competitive grants distributed between approximately 10-15 community-based organizations (CBOs) across California led by and/or serving communities facing inequities[1] from the COVID-19 pandemic.[2] The anticipated grant period is from January 1, 2023 (or upon contract execution) to May 31, 2024. This Request for Applications (RFA) is funded through the COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant from the CDC. CDPH has rebranded this federal grant as the California Equitable Recovery Initiative (CERI).

The global COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed systemic and institutional disparities and inequalities that take a disproportionate toll on our most vulnerable and marginalized communities. The COVID-19 pandemic amplified pre-existing inequities. This RFA seeks to address the root causes of these inequities and to ensure an equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. CBOs will use the funding to address underlying inequities in the social determinants of health that have contributed to disproportionate harm from the Coronavirus among priority communities.

This Grant Agreement is valid and enforceable only if sufficient funds are made available to the State by the United States Government for the term of this agreement for the purpose of this program. In addition, this Grant Agreement is subject to any additional restrictions, limitations, or conditions enacted by the Congress or to any statute enacted by the Congress that may affect the provisions, terms, or funding of this Grant Agreement in any manner. The parties mutually agree

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[1] "Health and mental health inequities are disparities in health or mental health, or the factors that shape health, that are systemic and avoidable and, therefore, considered unjust or unfair" (https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/ohe/Pages/OfficeHealthEquity.aspx).

[2] Health and Safety Code 131085 ahttps://codes.findlaw.com/ca/health-and-safety-code/hsc-sect-131085.html provides CDPH OHE the authority to award grants. Grant activities align with the Proclamation of State of Emergency (COVID-19). The CFDA number is 93.391 and the federal grant name is CDC-RFA-OT21-2103, also known as the CDC Health Disparities Grant.

that if the Congress does not appropriate sufficient funds for the program, this Grant Agreement shall be amended to reflect any reduction in funds. CDPH has the option to invalidate the Grant Agreement under the 30-day cancellation clause or to amend the Grant Agreement to reflect any reduction in funds.

## THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The funding opportunity is intended to benefit priority communities that have been impacted by COVID-19. If the Applicant's proposal is serving a population not on the Priority Population List, then the Applicant will need to justify the priority population chosen for this initiative through quantitative and/or qualitative data and/or information that can show that the population is experiencing disproportionate risk of COVID-19 undertreatment/hospitalization, infection, illness, or death.

**Priority Populations List***

Priority populations facing COVID-19 inequities and/or high risk include the following but are not limited to:

- Black and African American
- Latinx
- Caribbean (which includes Dominican, Cuban, Puerto Rican), Mexican, South American, Central American, or other countries/regions with Spanish influence
- Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders
- Chamorro/Guamanian, Fijian, Marshallese, Mariana Islanders, Micronesian, Ni-Vanuatu, Samoan, Tongan
- Asian American
- East Asian: Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Taiwanese
- South East Asian: Cambodian/Khmer, Hmong, Malaysian, Myanma/Burmese, Indonesian, Laos, Thai, Vietnamese
- South Asian: Afghani, Bangladeshis/Bengali, Indian, Nepalese, Pakistani, Punjabi
- Filipinx
- Arab Americans and Middle Eastern and North African (MENA)
- Indigenous: Native American/American Indian and Alaskan Native
- Tribal communities, especially rural tribal communities
- Unhoused or in crowded housing
- Farmworkers
- Immigrants & refugees
- Low-wage and frontline essential workers
- Low-income individuals
- Currently or formerly incarcerated or detained people
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and/or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and Two-Spirited (LGBTQ+)

- Those in long-term care, skilled nursing facilities, adult day programs, or other similar congregate settings
- Those exposed to high levels of air pollution
- Limited English Proficient (LEP)
- People with disabilities and/or different abilities
- Seniors with disabilities and/or different abilities, living alone, linguistically isolated, in poverty, seniors of color
- Intersections of these characteristics
    - Example: Black immigrant families who are low-income and live in crowded housing
    - Example: Chinese and Vietnamese Americans facing deadly discrimination, who are immigrants, low-income, exposed to high levels of air pollution, and LEP
    - Example: Seniors who are low income, immigrants, and unhoused

*These priority populations were identified by an Advisory Committee of ten public health leaders who advised the development of the COVID-19 Pilot Projects Program in 2021. Additional stakeholder input on the Priority Populations was gathered through a townhall held on June 22, 2022.

## SELECTION AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Center will select applicants who present the most complete and responsive applications demonstrating the most favorable mix of credentials, capacity, potential and cost. Applications will be judged on overall impact, strength of implementation team and proposal, and sustainability plans.

The most competitive applications will:

- Propose activities that will support an equitable recovery and resilience building
- Clearly explain why the organization is the appropriate organization to implement this project, including, but not limited to, track record of engaging with targeted community and program design.
- Demonstrate the ability through staffing, program strategies and approaches to provide a project that is culturally responsive and linguistically appropriate.
- Utilize an equity framework that recognizes the need to strive for health and racial equity in program activities and outcomes.
- Clearly describe the activities that will be performed, and their function and purpose as well as how the services will address the inequities that exist among the priority population.
- Demonstrates a compelling need representing an underlying inequity of significance to the focus population
- Clearly identifies the COVID-19 related disparities within the affected population.
- Demonstrates innovation and/or effectiveness in program design

- Provides evidence of collaboration with other organizations or entities addressing similar issues.
- Show evidence of working with low-income and minority populations, including undocumented populations.
- Affirm the applicant's ability to submit quarterly progress reports.
- Affirm participation in learning exchange activities
- Demonstrate organizational and fiscal/admin capacity

Applications also must adhere to funding guidelines and present a budget clearly linked to the proposed activities. If grant requests exceed available funding, the review committee will consider factors such as geographic diversity, underserved population or service area, diversity in organization type in the population served.

Organizations may only submit one application as either a lead or subcontracted organization.

At The Center's discretion, criteria are subject to change to best meet programmatic needs and funder requirements.

In addition to the above criteria, factors that inform the final slate of funded partners include demographic diversity, geographic coverage and programmatic approaches. The California Department of Public Health holds final decision-making authority in selecting funded projects.

## Eligibility Criteria

**Eligible organizations must meet the following minimum requirements:**
- Located in the state of California.
- Provide services in the state of California.
- Are a 501(c)(3) community-based organization. If a CBO is not a 501(c)(3), a fiscal sponsor who is a 501(c)(3) can be used who will submit the application. The fiscal sponsor will need to follow the same eligibility criteria.
- Applicant organizations and their partners must have evidence of inclusivity and shall not discriminate based on race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, tribal affiliation, or military status in any of its activities or operations.

**Ineligible Organizations**

The following entities are ineligible to apply for this funding source and are ineligible to serve as subcontractors:

- Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs)
- Hospitals, Clinics, Healthcare Providers, and (Social) Health Maintenance Organizations
    - Healthcare and other direct services are not an allowable activity
- Nursing Home Facilities (i.e., Long-term Care Institutions, Skilled Nursing Facilities)
- Academic Institutions
- Research Organizations
- Union Organizations

## FUNDING INFORMATION

**Scope of Work**

As the world shifts from pandemic response to recovery and resilience, there continues to be a need to address underlying inequities that have led to a disproportionate impact of COVID-19 and to advance an equitable recovery through **policy, systems, and environmental changes**. Proposed project design can vary, they can be a **community-defined best practice, evidence-based, or innovative**. Projects should focus on **systemic work, leading to a more equitable recovery and creating resiliency among those most impacted by the pandemic**. Example activities include, but are not limited to, the following: development and maintenance of strategic partnerships, development of recovery and resiliency community plans, community capacity building, community organizing, civic engagement, and (non-legislative) advocacy and policy change. Additional examples of activities are below.

Downstream activities such as individual health education, case management, health care, and COVID-19 testing, vaccination, and therapeutics are NOT allowable.

Each project can have multiple activities.  However, only 1 project per applicant is permissible.

## EXAMPLES OF POTENTIAL FUNDED ACTIVITIES

**Use of Project funds**

These are funding guidelines that are intended to be broad based to address equitable recovery and resilience building.

This RFA seeks to advance the State's work to close racial, ethnic, and other disparities related to COVID-19 and to ensure an equitable recovery and resilience building.  These are examples and are not exhaustive.

1. **Build a healthy and resilient future for priority communities[3]**
    - Build political and organizing power in priority communities
    - Improve cross sector collaborations

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[33] See above page for list of priority communities

- Resource frontline communities to address multiple and intersectional issues of health, economic, workforce, gender, educational, and climate justice with updated health equity actions plans and/or recovery and resiliency plans
- Implement activities that address structural and social determinants of health
- Create systems change for priority communities

**2. Promote economic opportunity for priority communities**
- Protect economic viability for essential and frontline workers
- Provide training and embed organizational policies
- Support efforts to prioritize stimulus funding for small business and nonprofit organizations serving priority communities
- Implement advocacy activities that address structural and social determinants of health

**3. Advance housing stability strategies for priority communities**
- Prevent evictions during the pandemic and mitigate the eviction cliff post-pandemic

- Establish and implement housing equity action plans through multisector teams and/or advisory groups/task forces
- Support interim and long-term housing solutions that bring unsheltered people indoors immediately

**4. Address the educational gap in school age children that has resulted from the pandemic in priority communities**
- Support safe learning environments & youth development including building trust between teachers, families, and school systems
- Deepen community-based partnerships to meet the needs of students and their families
- Include student voices in decision-making

## WHAT WE WILL NOT FUND THROUGH THIS FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

**Below are examples of unallowable activities:**

1. Direct COVID-19 service including testing, contact tracing, laboratory services, case investigation, public health surveillance programs, vaccination, or therapeutics. There are large amounts of funding going towards local health jurisdictions, testing services, contact tracing, laboratory services, and public health surveillance. Thus, those activities will NOT be funded through this RFA, as they are already being covered through other grant or other emergency COVID-19 funding sources.
2. Debt retirement
3. Education on behavioral strategies to reduce infection risk

4.  Media campaign and outreach on COVID mitigation, testing, and vaccination topics such as face coverings, physical distancing, etc.
5.  Staff to work with Skilled Nursing Facilities
6.  Operational deficits
7.  Partisan activities
8.  Religious organizations for explicit religious activities
9.  Activities that exclusively benefit the members of sectarian or religious organizations
10. Purchase of properties or vehicles
11. Direct Services (food, housing assistance, cleaning supplies, etc.)
12. Research (proposed activities must be implementation only)
13. Direct housing services (but funds being used to create equity housing plan are allowable)
14. Cleaning supplies and basic needs (e.g., to elderly, people with special needs, people who are homeless and do not want to receive/are not receiving emergency sheltering services, low-income)
15. Lobbying for or against specific proposed legislation or candidate. Note: Advocating for a general cause is allowable, but advocating for an ordinance, bill, or law to pass and encouraging individuals to call their local congressional office, state representative or city councilmember is not allowed.
16. Activities that no longer fit into the "high priority needs" of the current state of the pandemic, which may include worker safety guidelines and quarantine plans.

## TOTAL AWARD AMOUNT

Up to $300,000 for 15 months for 501(c)(3) community-based organizations, but applicants cannot supplant other funding.  This funding can be used to build off existing efforts or be used for new projects.

*Up to 20% of direct costs may be requested as indirect costs*

## GEOGRAPHIC CONSIDERATIONS

Funding will be distributed throughout California. There will be priority consideration given to specific geographic areas that have been impacted by COVID-19.

## CURRENT RECIPIENTS OF OTHER COVID-19 FUND SOURCES

If you have been awarded a previous grant under COVID-19 funding and/or Pilot Project funding you may apply for this opportunity.

We will ask reapplicants and current recipients of COVID funding to provide an explanation on why they will need ongoing funding. **Please refer to requirement application question #13.**

## PROJECT TIMELINE

Grants will cover activities for the anticipated funding time period: early 2023 – May 31, 2024.

## REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Grantee partners will be required to submit a quarterly narrative report, as well as a final report responding to the performance measures identified in their grant agreement and work plan, as well as financial reports describing actual expenditures of grant funding.

## APPLICATION TIMELINE

At The Center's discretion, the timeline below is subject to change to best meet programmatic needs and funder requirements.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: November 29, 2022 at 1 p.m. (Pacific Time)

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS: End of November – End of December 2022

APPROXIMATE AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT:   January 2023

APPROXIMATE DATE GRANTS ISSUED:  February - April 2023 (depending on speed of document collection)

To be considered, proposals must be submitted by 1 p.m. (Pacific Time) on the deadline date of November 29th, 2022. Proposals received after the due date/time will not be reviewed. Submission before the deadline date is advised in case you experience technical difficulties with submitting your application through the portal.  We may not be able to respond to your requests for help on the deadline date.

## PROPOSERS' WEBINARS

We have scheduled a proposers' webinar to review this funding opportunity, the application process, and to answer your questions. Participation in the webinar is strongly recommended. Please review the application materials prior to registering for the webinar.

**RFA Proposers' Webinar**
Monday, October 24 at 1pm PST
Register online here: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_93g7ltM3RBCH7IKATvyf9A

*Please note, the link to join the webinar will be sent immediately in your registration confirmation email.

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**IMPORTANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

**To help us process your application, please follow these submission guidelines:**

- We encourage you to submit your application before the deadline date in case you need help with any of the RFA components.

- Applications are due no later than 1 p.m. (Pacific Time) on day and date.

- **Submit the application via our online portal through this link.** You will use the link that you will receive via e-mail to continue working on your saved application.

- Respond to all required fields (marked with an *).

- Upload all attachments listed under "Application Checklist" below.

- On the portal, you may click "Save my progress and resume later." You will receive an e-mail with a link to return to your in-progress application.

- Click "Save my progress and resume later" any time you will not be working in your application for a few minutes.

- You may submit your application only once. Be sure your application is complete and accurate, including required documents, before submitting it. Revised applications will not be accepted.

- If you are unable to submit your application online or need help, please contact us at **centergrants@shfcenter.org with the subject line: CERI Application Online Help.**

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**Send questions and inquiries related to this funding opportunity
to centergrants@shfcenter.org with the subject line: CERI Application Online Help**

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## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

□ Initiate the funding application online. The link is also posted on our web site.

□ **Required Application Attachments**

- Proposed budget completed in The Center's Proposed Budget Template (template available in the online portal)
- Proposed budget justification

- Applicant organization's W-9 and IRS Determination Letter
- One (1) Letter of Support is OPTIONAL from the (lead) Applicant's Local Health Jurisdiction (LHJ, or local health department).
    - Potential authors from the LHJ can be:
        - LHJ Director
        - Assistant Director
        - Health Officer or Deputy Health Officer
        - COVID-19 Response or Infectious Disease Manager
        - Equity Manager or Equity Office

Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Applications received after the above deadline may not be considered.

If you are unable to submit your application online or need help, please contact us at centergrants@shfcenter.org with the subject line: CERI Application Online Help.

**APPLICATION FOR REFERENCE ONLY**
**SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION USING THE ONLINE PORTAL**
*If you are unable to submit your application online or need help, please contact us at centergrants@shfcenter.org with the subject line: CERI Application Online Help.*

***CERI Project Grant Application***

APPLICANT ORGANIZATION INFO
- Org name
- Is this organization a fiscal sponsor?
- Name of fiscally sponsored organization, if applicable
- Address
- County
- Phone
- URL (optional)
- Director/CEO Contact Name
- Director/CEO Contact Title
- Director E-mail address
- Director phone
- Application Contact
- Application Contact E-mail Address
- Application Contact Phone
- Applicant Organization Tax ID #
- Unique Entity Identifier SAM expiration date

- Organization Status –Organization has 501(c)(3) nonprofit status with the IRS.  Yes, No, Unsure
- What is the applicant organization's annual budget amount?
- Does the applicant organization have an annual financial audit?

**Applicant Information (IRS qualifying organization; use legal name as registered with the IRS)**

Organization _____

☐ Nonprofit        ☐ Public Agency

Applicant organization is a fiscal sponsor
*A fiscal sponsor is an organization that applies on behalf of an entity or group that does not have legal standing with the IRS.*

☐ **Yes**    ☐ **No** _____

**Dept. or Project**
**(if applicable)** _____

**Address** _____

City _____  State _____  Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Tax Exempt ID # or Employer ID #

Web site _____

Social Media *(Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc.)* _____

**CEO/Director**

Name _____  Title _____

E-mail _____

Office Phone _____  Extension _____

**Primary Project Contact *(for questions related to this proposal)***

<u>Name</u> _____  Title _____

Office Phone _____  Ext _____  E-mail _____

**Additional Contact (optional)**

<u>Name</u>                                       Title

Office Phone                  Ext             E-mail

## Project Summary Information

Project Name *(20 words or less)* _____

Brief Purpose of Project (*100 words or less*):
To

Amount Requested

## Project Geography

*Please indicate the jurisdiction where your project will be focused.*

## Priority Communities

Estimated total number of people and/or families to be affected/served by the project:

<u>Race and Ethnicity</u>
*For the racial and ethnic populations that will be affected, provide your best estimate of the percentage of the total people will be of each population (Total must add up to 100.)*

Black and African American:

Asian American

Latino/Hispanic

Mixed Race

White

American Indian/Alaska Native

Indigenous

Middle Eastern/North African

Pacific Islander

Other

<u>Age Group</u>

*For the age groups that will be affected, provide your best estimate of the percentage in each age group. (Total must add up to 100.)*

Under 5 \_\_\_%          5-9 \_\_\_%          10-14 \_\_\_%          15-19 \_\_\_%          20-24 \_\_\_%

25-54 \_\_\_%          55+ \_\_\_%

<u>Additional Population</u>

*Check any of the following populations that are a primary focus of the project.*

People with disabilities

Immigrants

Farm Workers

People who are experiencing homelessness

2S/LGBTQ+

Boys and Men of Color

Girls and Women of Color

Caribbean (which includes Dominican, Cuban, Puerto Rican), Mexican, South American, Central American, or other countries/regions with Spanish influence:

Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders:

Chamorro/Guamanian, Fijian, Marshallese, Mariana Islanders, Micronesian, Ni-Vanuatu, Samoan, Tongan:

East Asian: Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Taiwanese:

South East Asian: Cambodian/Khmer, Hmong, Malaysian, Myanma/Burmese, Indonesian,

Laos, Thai, Vietnamese:

South Asian: Afghani, Bangladeshis/Bengali, Indian, Nepalese, Pakistani, Punjabi:

Filipinx:

Arab Americans and Middle Eastern and North African (MENA):

Indigenous: Native American/American Indian and Alaskan Native Tribal communities, especially rural tribal communities:

Unhoused or in crowded housing:

Farmworkers:

Immigrants & refugees:

Low-wage and frontline essential workers:

Low-income individuals:

Currently or formerly incarcerated or detained people:

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and/or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and Two-Spirited (LGBTQ+):

Those in long-term care, skilled nursing facilities, adult day programs, or other similar congregate settings:

Those exposed to high levels of air pollution:

Limited English Proficient (LEP):

People with disabilities and/or different abilities:

Seniors with disabilities and/or different abilities, living alone, linguistically isolated, in poverty, seniors of color:

Other (please specify):

**Project Narrative Questions**

1. **Organization Description**. Provide a brief overview of your organization (the entity that is carrying out the project), including: a) when it was established, b) its mission, and c) whom you serve. (200 words maximum)

2. **Need.** Describe the need, challenge or issue the project will address. If available, include relevant data from secondary sources (such as the Census) and/or primary sources (such as town halls or focus groups). (200 word maximum)

3. **Project Goal and Outcomes.** Describe your project's overall goal. Frame this in terms of the project's long-term aspirations. List 2-5 expected direct outcomes of the activities. (300 word maximum)

4. **Population Description.** Describe the population that will be affected by the proposed project. Include any data available on their geographic setting or neighborhood as well as demographic characteristics (such as age, gender, race/ethnicity), socioeconomic status, and any other relevant information. (200 words maximum)

5. **Track Record with Proposed Focus Population**. Describe your organization's experience providing culturally and linguistically appropriate services to the focus population(s) to be served. Briefly describe 1-3 examples of your work with this community (or communities). (200 word maximum)

6. **Project Activities.** Describe in detail your plan to use these funds. List the specific activities and resources needed to carry out your proposed project, and the timeline. (300 words maximum)

7. **Track Record with Proposed Project Activities**. State whether the proposed activities are new to your organization or an expansion of or supplement to existing activities. Describe your organization's experience with the kind of work proposed in this application. Briefly describe 1-3 examples of successes your organization has had implementing similar work. (200 word maximum)

8. **Staffing**. Describe your plan for recruiting, training and supporting staff who have been impacted disproportionately by COVID-19. (200 word maximum)

9. **Equity Implementation.** Describe what strategies you plan to use to ensure equity to those disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 in the implementation of this program. How will you ensure that those populations who are often missed will gain access to this program? (300 word maximum)

10. **Partnerships**. Describe partnerships that are already in place or will be established to support implementation of your program goals, including access to vaccines, testing, and other health services. If you plan to re-grant this funding to another organization, please describe the process you will use and provide a list of secured or pending partners. Include whether these are new or existing partners. If no partners are needed, please explain. Please include at least one letter of support from your partners with your application. (200 word maximum)

11. **Monitoring and Evaluation.** Describe how you will document, monitor, or evaluate project activities and progress toward the outcomes listed above. Please describe your organization's capacity to meet the reporting requirements. (300 words maximum)

12. **Organizational and Fiscal/Admin Capacity**. Describe the qualifications of the project leaders and key staff on the project, including length of time worked on projects to create policy, system or environmental changes. Explain how these staff members will carry out the activities identified above and support the organizational fiscal administration, evaluation and/or reporting requirements of this funding opportunity. If additional staff is needed, please tell us the positions that will need to be hired, as well as the recruitment and hiring plan. (200 words maximum)

13. **Additional Funding**. Provide information about any additional funding that the organization plans to leverage to support this project. Include applications that have been submitted or will be submitted for funding. Please tell us how the funds will complement and/or expand the work for this project (200 words maximum)

14. **For Current Recipients of any State COVID funds only (which includes awardees from the Pilot Projects Program):** Provide a detailed explanation of why additional and ongoing funded is needed for your organization. You may also provide results, findings, and statistics from your current projects, and how the activities will differ with these CERI funds. (400 words maximum)